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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Venezuela

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 21 November 1950

SUBJECT New Head of Venezuelan Government

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PLACE 25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldon*, director of the Venezuelan Bureau of Foot and Mouth Disease, has accepted the position of head of the Venezuelan government. Official announcement of this is expected to be forthcoming on 21 November 1950. It has also been reported that changes in the cabinet are currently under discussion.
2. It was previously reported that the two remaining members of the Military Junta of Government of Venezuela planned to resign on 24 November 1950; that a new, undesignated government would take office on 25 November; and that the probability existed that a civilian would be brought in as head of the new government. Luis Emilio Gomez Ruiz, Minister of Foreign Affairs, had been mentioned for the position.
3. The widow of Lt. Colonel Carlos Delgado Chalbaud, former President of the Military Junta, in a moment of distress accused Lt. Colonel Marcos Perez Jimenez, Minister of National Defense, of being responsible for the assassination of her husband. Accion Democratica elements are making the same accusation against Perez Jimenez and are circulating a handbill to that effect.
4. Antonio Aranguren, owner of the house where the assassination occurred, reportedly died from a heart attack on the night of 16 November while in police custody.
5. Scattered shooting on the night of 15 November was attributed to police tension. The curfew from 1330 hours and 0530 hours each night is still in effect. Numerous arrests are being made of suspects and political agitators. No Communist activity has been reported and the interior of the country remains calm.

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Comment.

Comment. [REDACTED] doubt the implication of Perez Jimenez in the assassination. Rumors continue to the effect that followers of former Presidents Gomez, Medina, and Lopez Contreras were responsible for Delgado Chalbaud's death. Government officials insist that Delgado Chalbaud was killed for personal reasons and that there was no political motivation involved.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Dr. Arnaldo Cabaldon is a Venezuelan scientist who has won renown for his work in combatting malaria in Venezuela.

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